Statement

S. No.	Market	Wholesale (Rs./QTL)		Retail (Rs./KG.)	
		July 93	July 90	July 93	July 90
1.	Delhi . . .	981·66	826·25	10·50	8·58
2.	Kanpur . . .	1040·00	820·00	10·75	8·40
3.	Calcutta . . .	1123·33	865·00	12·00	9·00
4.	Bombay . . .	1038·33	796·00	11·35	8·55
5.	Madras . . .	1000·66	777·00	10·35	8·20

Buffer stock of wheat and rice

704. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2179 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether there has been improvement in the procurement position of wheat and rice and at the same time there is low off-take from the buffer stock of wheat and rice; if so the manner in which the buffer stock is proposed to be managed;

(b) what is the likely impact of increased buffer stock on food subsidy ; and

(c) the details of steps taken to increase off-take of foodgrains from the buffer stock ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been improvement in the procurement of wheat and rice during the current procurement seasons. Low offtake of the foodgrains (both wheat and rice) has been due to easy availability of foodgrains in the open market. The stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1-7-93 are 92·73 lakh Metric Tonnes and 148·89 Metric Tonnes respectively against the minimum stocks of 92·0 lakh Metric Tonnes of rice and 131·0 lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat prescribed to be maintained as per buffer stocking policy. The excess in stocks are only 18·62 lakh tonnes and the Government incur holding expenses. This temporary excess will comdown when offtake increases by additional allocations and better movement.

Procurement of Wheat and Rice

705. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of wheat and rice this year is the highest;

(b) if so, what are the procurement figures for wheat and rice separately for the year 1992-93;

(c) whether Government are considering to export wheat and rice during the year 1993-94; and

(d) if so, the details in this rega d